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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH  
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

25X1 The attached material is being sent for your retention in the  
25X1 belief that it may be of interest:

1. Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.
2. Daily Reviews of the Arabic Press, Cairo, Egypt.
3. Le Journal d'Egypte.

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These attachments are of a free classification.

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

May 23, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 22, 1949.BEIRUT

In regretting the "unfriendly" attitudes Lebanon and Syria are taking against one another "at a time when highly important economic problems impose upon the interests of both countries the necessity of their immediate solution in the light of their common interests, lest their joint economies collapse and lest they be faced with a most difficult problem, the problem of unemployment", the paper states:

"The Lebanese and Syrian industrialists are sending one complaint after another. They are complaining of their hardships which have arisen from the competition of foreign goods with similar national goods. They are demanding protection of their products through raising customs duties; limiting imports; reducing the prices of combustibles, particularly mazout and electricity; and abolishing city tolls. They are also expressing their readiness to meet with their Syrian brethren for formulating a joint program to co-ordinate their plans with a view to saving the Lebanese and Syrian industries from the crises from which both countries are now suffering.

"While we fully sympathize with the demands of the industrialists, we wish, at the same time, that no harm will reach the Lebanese Syrian traders and consumers from the adoption of hasty measures before comprehensively studying the existing problems on the basis of facts and figures to safeguard the industrialists and the traders at the same time; to preserve Lebanon's and Syria's national wealth; to overcome the obvious imbalance suffered by the trades of both countries, and to observe the international laws relating to customs and other duties which our delegates are now studying with the international representatives at the Ancey Conference.

"Moreover, we must not forget that Beirut is a commercial port and that the Lebanese, most of whom engage in commerce and transit trade, wish to see their port flourishing and remaining as the hub of commercial activities.

"It is difficult, but not impossible, to draw up, in concert with our Syrian brethren, a comprehensive economic program to tackle these contradictory problems. But with goodwill on both the Lebanese and the Syrian sides, they will undoubtedly be able to save their industries from these crises and to continue

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their active commerce.

"Would it not be in the interests of the economies of both countries if their financiers, industrialists and experts meet and study our economic problems with calmness instead of abusing one another, urging economic separation? If this separation is effected, it will come as a deadly blow to the economies of both countries.

"The interval through which Lebanon's and Syria's economies are passing can not withstand such convulsions."

#### AL-AHVAL

advises Syria immediately to abandon its policy of threats and intimidations toward Lebanon "because Lebanon is not afraid of such threats and intimidations." Stating that Syria's action would cause only rises in the prices of certain commodities and would accelerate the liquidation of the economic partnership "which would be more disastrous to Syria than to Lebanon" the editorial cautions Syria

"That the new regime in Damascus will emerge with a smashed reputation, internationally, if its men will continue their aggressive attitude toward Lebanon as a result of the present crisis. The Syrian coup endeavored to demonstrate to the world that its leaders were seeking justice and reforms.... What would remain of this regime if it abandoned the noble principles it proclaimed and promised to observe? Moreover, Lebanon and Syria are not two tribal communities. They are two civilized states and members of the United Nations Organization. Therefore, their differences must be settled in accordance with international procedure and courtesies."

The editorial then asserts that although the opposition in Lebanon has welcomed the new Syrian regime, it stands united against the Syrian threats. It adds:

"The Syrians must not hope that the Lebanese people would defy their government in such circumstances because the Syrian measures challenge the entire nation.... Finally, we again express our confidence in the wisdom of the responsible authorities in Damascus, so that Syria will mediate with Syria and will not ask Lebanon to do more than its adherence to its sovereignty and independence prompts to do."

#### AD-DIYAR

Declaring that the Syrian coup d'etat still "lacks calmness and stability internally, and a good international reputation which would provide with stability externally, the paper comments:

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"We hoped, when the coup realized its first phase, that it would develop and become a state in the full sense of the word. We hoped that it would build new Syria on foundations of right and law not only internally, but in its external dealings and relations. When its first crisis arose with Transjordan and mobilized its armies and fumed and foamed, we excused it because it was still in the cradle. Our excuses ebbed during its crisis with Iraq and disappeared now after its crisis with Lebanon. People are asking everywhere about the fate of its external stability so long as the coup does not depend in its relationships and foreign policy on international laws and traditions. Despite the passage of several weeks over the coup, Damascus is still being dominated by the spirit and mentality of this coup.... It is possible that the coup needs the Syrian people's nourishment of surprises and crises until it is stabilized! Whatever the motives and causes may be, it is in the interests of the coup itself, to return to the fold of the law so that it might survive and be stabilized internally and externally."

ASH-SHARH

stating that the inter Arab problems and disagreements arise from the personal rivalries of the Arab rulers themselves, the paper urges "the conscious, alert and loyal" people to put a stop to the "ambitions of personal politics and to take decisive action to help the nation attain its high aims."

This paper tells AL-'AMAL, which is supporting the Lebanese government and criticizing Syria's frontier measures, "Where were Lebanon's prestige and Lebanon's sovereignty when our frontiers were attacked by the Zionist gangsters and rendered thousands of Lebanese homeless?"

AL-HADAF

maintains that the Lausanne talks "are revolving in a vicious circle", that the conference has not yet taken a single forward step, and that it would be better for the Arab delegates if they withdrew from the conference because the Palestine problem must be solved in the Arab countries and not abroad.

SAWT AL-AHRAH (May 21)

publishes a New York despatch reporting a speech Vice President Barkley has recently made on the occasion of the first anniversary of the founding of Israeli in which he said:

"The creation of Israeli means the introduction of democracy in an area of the world which has been denied democracy for many a generation.."

The paper objects to this statement and says: "Has

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the Vice President forgotten that Lebanon is in that area too, or does Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister Plenipotentiary in Beirut, advise him, in his continual reports, of the 'application' of democracy in Lebanon?"

SAWT AL-AHRAR (May 22)

maintains that free imports will not at all prejudice the protection of national industries.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

May 24, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
appearing on May 24, 1949.

BEIRUT

In welcoming the decisions the Council of Ministers has recently taken in favor of the Lebanese industrialists, such as the abolition of the city toll taxes, the reduction of fuel oil and electricity prices and the imposition of import licenses on imported goods the like of which is produced in Lebanon, the editorial asks the authorities:

"Is it in Lebanon's interests to study these matters alone while we form an economic unit with Syria? These studies will be lame and will hop on one foot! Is there a Lebanese tendency toward economic separation between Syria and ourselves?....

"The problem of industry must be comprehensively studied in both countries. It must be examined once and for all in Lebanon and Syria and in the light of the present and the future, if we wish to protect Lebanese and Syrian trade and industry. Otherwise, we are afraid that the measures will not be co-ordinated and that Syria might take steps which might severely injure the Lebanese industries - which have counterparts in Syria - as well as the Lebanese commerce."

AL-HAYAT

Complaining that the present Arab generation is loquacious to a suicidal degree, which loquacity is further increased by modern inventions, the paper condemns the recriminations that are being daily exchanged by the Arab broadcasting stations and says:

"Last week was rich in this type of broadcasts, so much so that we have been ashamed to hear the 'commentaries' and the 'announcements'..... disputes between peoples, rulers and kings are not new. They are a natural human phenomenon. They The blame is in using the broadcasting stations for spreading our internal quarrels among all the peoples, as if Arab interests demand that we offer the world new evidence of our ability to babble."

AL-'AMAL

which advocates economic separation from Syria, writes in part:

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"Without quarrels and bickerings  
 "Without threats and intimidations  
 "Without roused nerves and recriminations  
 "Without all these, Lebanon and Syria could  
 live as friendly and understanding neighbors.  
 "But to realize this state - aspired by all -  
 each of the two countries must be independent  
 in its economic life, so much so that Syria  
 will no longer labor under the illusion that  
 it is doing Lebanon favors and that it is  
 the source of its life and existence.... Any  
 other course will inevitably lead to disputes,  
 animosity and misunderstanding..."

AD-DIXAR

writes that the "polite" criticism some of the  
 Lebanese newspapers made on the occasion of the  
 coup d'etat created great uproar in Syria and  
 moved the authorities to prohibit the entry of  
 those newspapers into Syria and to make the  
 unfounded claim that the papers were inspired  
 by the Lebanese Government. Stating that since  
 the Syrian newspapers are now subject to strict  
 military censorship, it infers that the press  
 campaign against Lebanon is undoubtedly directed  
 by the Syrian authorities themselves. It adds:

"The Damascus newspapers have exceeded the limit  
 of courtesy and politeness and have become yellow  
 sheets which neither value nor manners. Can newspapers  
 be valuable when they attack our leaders and call  
 our Premier a Zionist?

"Has Riadh as-Solh now become a Jew? Have the rulers  
 and leaders of Damascus become nationalists? Is it  
 true that our Premier is a traitor because he does  
 not give in to wanton threats? Is he a traitor  
 because we do not succumb to coercion? Are they  
 nationalists in Damascus?

"We know the pens that write in the Damascus press.  
 We know the Syrian people's views on them. But what  
 we want to know is the stand of the Damascus Government.  
 We want to know what al-Zaim would say if he saw in  
 Lebanon any writer forgetting his manners and etiquette  
 and describing the coup in the same way the newspapers  
 of the coup are describing our leaders. We feel it is  
 time for those in Damascus to ~~shh~~ down and for the  
 hired pens to blush."

This paper writes:

"Two days ago, a number of students attempted  
 to throw explosives on the Russian Legation  
 at al-Qantari Street. Policeman Yusuf Ibrahim,  
 who guards the Legation building, pursued them  
 and was able to arrest one of them called David  
Deornix, an American national, and to hand him  
 over to the appropriate authorities for investigation."

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AR-RUWAD

criticizes Colonel Moani al-Zaim for his "arrogance" and says:

"Today, the rebellious Zaim is mobilizing the newspapers which sing his praises, in his attempt to disfigure our Prime Minister in the imagination of the Lebanese people, forgetting that as-Solh will remain in Lebanon the laurel which we entwine in our forelocks whenever we pride ourselves in our men and in our loyalty and honesty."

In a second article, AR-RUWAD states that the Syrian authorities have prohibited its circulation in Syria because it has defended Defense Minister Majid Arslan whose reputation is being smeared by Damascus and its newspapers.

According to this paper, a "high official personality" has denied as completely unfounded press reports that the Lebanese President intends paying a semi-official visit to London.

AL-BAYRAQ

headlines its editorial:

DO NOT CLOSE THE SEA GATE. IT IS LEBANON'S NATURAL ROUTE TO THE WORLD. LEAVE THE WHEAT IMPORTS FREE. BEWARE OF RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF COMMERCE. LEBANON WILL DIE IN ISOLATION. IT HOPES TO GET RID OF THE COMMON INTERESTS.



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

May 25, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 25, 1949.

BEIRUT

is glad because of the resumption of economic relations between Lebanon and Syria. It takes this occasion to remind both countries of the necessity of stronger economic and political solidarity in view of the present of Israeli across their borders which "wants to enslave them economically." It concludes:

"Indeed, we are happy because things have returned to their normal course between the two sister countries. We request the Lebanese and Syrian leaders who are meeting today to settle their passing differences with wisdom. We thank the Egyptians and the Saudi Arabians for their mediation and hope that the Lebanese President and the Syrian leader will pilot the ship of the two states to the shores of safety."

AL-HAYAT

writes that the measures the Lebanese Government has decided to take for protecting the national industry "constitute a new precedent in our independent life, which we support but with caution and the consequences of which we watch with keen interest. It might become a turning point in our political and social systems." It then goes on to say:

"At any rate, protection of the national industry is a praiseworthy movement, which we welcome in principle. But the Government must from now on supervise the industry and the industrialists in order to guarantee the attainment of the following benefits:

- "1- To improve industrial production from the standpoint of quality so that the industrialists may not be contented with the present state and may not spend their profits on unfruitful industrial projects.
- "2- To fix the prices of industrial products so that the restrictions on imports may not be a means for countless profits for individuals only. This measure might necessitate the fixing of a percentage of the profits, so that when the profits exceed this percentage, the government will change its import restriction measures, and vice versa.

"However, the industrial chain is an indivisible

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unit. If the State has decided to interfere with one side, it must also interfere with all other sides. Either freedom or restriction.. The government must be guided by this principle in taking its first step along the path of restrictions in the interests of all, so that the results might be beneficial to the country and might not create an arbitrary industrial capitalism."

#### AL-'ANAL

borders the edges of its front page with heavy black lines in the middle of which it prints a large drawing depicting a crucified man, under the title: LEBANON ON THE CROSS OF MAY 25, THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY: THE COUP WHICH PARALYZED THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, STABBED LIBERTY AND IMPAIRED DIGNITY. This is followed by a long article which holds the present Chamber of Deputies responsible for all of Lebanon's internal and external difficulties. The article begins in the following fashion:

"O page of infamy disappear!  
 "Today, the twenty fifth of May, is a day of shame, a day of disgrace, a day of the loss of liberty, a day of the black stain on the page of this era of independence. O sons of May be ashamed of yourselves.."

#### AD-DIYAR

calls the second anniversary of the election of the present Chamber of Deputies a day full of painful memories...an ill-fated day which has separated the people from their rulers...

#### SANT AL-AHRAR

describes, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the formation of the Chamber of Deputies, how the government falsified the elections and how the people and the press objected to them. It then asks the President of the Republic, in view of his constitutional powers, to dissolve the Chamber in order to "relieve the nation of a body which does not represent ~~the~~ it."

#### AL-BAYAN

reviews Lebanon's past and present relations with the foreign powers and says the interests of these powers in Lebanon in the form of universities, schools, institutions, missionaries, convents, hospitals, churches, communities and commercial enterprises are sufficient to guarantee Lebanon's independence both in times of peace and of war. This being the case, the paper urges the responsible authorities to improve Lebanon's internal condition so that it will become an ideal country and an "abode of freedom, of democratic principles, of civilization and of prosperity."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

May 26, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 26, 1949.

BEIRUT

Charging that the Lebanese Government improvises all its actions and that it does not base them on deep study, examination and foresight, the paper states:

"Lebano-Syrian relations became almost critical recently because of a simple incident which the Government could have overcome with wisdom and thoughtfulness. Today, the Government is again being inspired by improvisation in handling the problem of our national industries. It has issued two decrees for protecting these industries without reaching an agreement with the Syrian Government on a unified program regarding them, without closely studying these decrees before enacting them. Thus, we find ourselves passing through a new trial, and trials are possible in everything save economic matters because these depend upon figures. Where are the figures of the Ministry of National Economy?"

"Decree No. 6750 subjects thirty three types of articles imported by Lebanese merchants to prior license to be issued by the Ministry of National Economy. This means that the Ministry of Economy will have the right to permit or forbid the importation of these types. This right is entrusted to the Minister of National Economy. While we have confidence in the integrity of the present Minister, who will guarantee for us the integrity of his successor? Da'bul Building has, in the past, discriminated between one Lebanese and another.

"The Ministry of National Economy also issued a second decree No. 6751 which abolished a committee of disagreeing merchants, industrialists and officials and restricted its duties to drawing up a schedule of the prices prevailing on May 23, 1949 of all the thirty three types for submittal to the Minister of National Economy once every fortnight, so that he may personally acquaint himself with the fluctuation of their prices. This means that if the prices of these types should rise, their importation would be permitted; and if they should maintain their level or decline, their importation would be prohibited. Thus the industrialists and the merchants would live in an undecided and unsettled atmosphere. Is it possible to enact these elastic decrees to the exclusion of Syria with which we form an economic unit?"

"We, like the Government, wish to protect the Lebanese industry which should survive, provided that we must not injure the consumer and wittingly or unwittingly increase the wave of high prices.

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Why doesn't the Government bear its responsibilities and completely prohibit the importation of certain foreign goods which compete with our national products, instead of issuing two decisions that are not based on careful study, on facts and figures and on agreement with sister Syria?"

#### AL-HAYAT

comments on the present clamor re the proposed revision of the Election Law and says the country has not seen a more ridiculous drama enacted on its internal political stage than the drama which they call the revision of the Election Law. It concludes:

"While we appreciate the country's difficulty in freeing itself from the pressure of interests and influences, ~~we~~ we believe that the high authorities will commit a grave sin if they do not interfere by imposing a sound revision which will fundamentally exceed the limit of re-electing all the members of the Chamber, this limit at which stop the thoughts of the overwhelming majority of the Deputies, as proved by the debates of the Administrative and Judicial Committee. If goodwill is lacking, it would be better to close the revision page and not to mention it at all. The comedy has been prolonged and the discussions on this subject have harmed the reforms and the dignity of the State."

"Two decrees were issued yesterday prohibiting the entry of the following publications into Lebanon:

"Sawt al-Iraq, published in Arabic in Paris; Al-Shabab, Alif Ba', Al-Qabas, Al-Nadeer, Al-Inqilab, Al-'Alam all of which are published in Syria. The Government has previously prohibited the entry into Lebanon of Roz al-Yusuf, an Egyptian review. One hundred and fifty copies of this review were confiscated yesterday from the newsdealers."

#### AD-DIYAR

Under the headline "The 'Treason of Amir Majid Arslan", this paper carries the following editorial which is translated in full:

"Amir Majid Arslan is a traitor, according to some Damascus newspapers which are inflamed with nationalism!! These newspapers publish conclusive evidence of this treason in the form of a letter from Amir Majid to the Mukhtar of Shawaya in the South regarding the delivery of the stronghold of Shawaya to Kamil Husain. The newspapers publish the letter and comment: Since Kamil Husain was a spy, he received the stronghold by the order of Amir Majid and then turned it over

to his Zionist masters. The Syrians read this and shake their heads with pain and anger.... A Lebanese Minister is a traitor.... Lebanon is a traitor.... Long live the Syrian nationalist press and long live the measures to starve Lebanon!

"If the 'nationalism' of the Syrian press were enlightened, the free writers would have realized that Shawaya is located beyond the Palestinian frontiers in the direction of Rashaya and is more than 35 kilometers from the frontiers. They would also realize that the stronghold is an old 'tin' barracks which the French built after their encounter with the Druze in Hasbaya in 1925 and then turned it into a post for their artillery attack on Rashaya. When the French forces withdrew and the Lebanese Army took over the 'stronghold', the latter army abandoned the barracks which became a heap of ruins and rubble! How did the Amir hand it over to Kamil Husain also that the latter might turn it over to the Jews? This is known to the educated 'nationalist' publishers of the Damascus newspapers.

"The handing-over story took place a year ago. When the bedouins were obliged to evacuate al-Hawla under Jewish pressure and when the masses of refugees flooded the South, Kamil Husain asked for the Shawaya stronghold where some of the shepherds might shelter with their sheep. His request was complied with. The Amir wrote to the Mukhtar of Shawaya demanding its delivery. The refugees occupied it for three days during which they found out that it was not suitable and that the area lacked grazing grounds. So they abandoned it and left Shawaya for other parts, and thus everything returned to its normal course. This is the story of the Shawaya stronghold, of its delivery, and of Amir Majid Arslan's treason. Will the Syrian newsmen show us the treason? Do they want to tell us: when and how the Jews took over Shawaya which is located 35 kilometers beyond Hasbaya?

"The newsmen imagined that they serve the coup by intrigues, abuses and attacks. They imagine that their rewards would be doubled by describing Riadh as-olh as an 'Adon' and Majid Arslan as a traitor. If they think a little, if they use their mind and logic, they will find that they are the traitors and not the others. They would realize that service to the enemy is treasonable. Is there a greater service to the enemy than disuniting the Arabs and the Arab states?

"The nationalism of the son of Arslan does not require testimonies. <sup>no</sup>Arabism can not be questioned.."